



Fig. 19 is a sectional illustration showing a sealing element of the eighth embodiment of a hermetic container and its sealing method according to the present invention.

Page 31, between lines 18 and 19, please insert the following new paragraph:

FIG. 19 shows the eighth embodiment of the present invention. This embodiment is similar to earlier embodiments in that a flexible protruding part 22 is projected obliquely from the endless portion 21. This protruding part 22 is integrally formed at its distal end with a rounded projection, while a notch 23' is formed on the obverse surface. In this embodiment, instead of having a pair of fitting ribs, the sealing element includes the notch 23'.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 and 11 without prejudice.

Please amend the following claims and add the following claim pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121 (a marked up copy of the claims is enclosed).

AS

1. (Amended) A sealing element which is interposed between the opening face of a fitted element and fitting element and elastically deformable so as to prevent leakage from the interior and entrance from the exterior, comprising:
an endless portion;


a flexible protruding part projected approximately obliquely outwards from the periphery of the endless portion; and
a fitting means having a notch or projection formed on at least one of the obverse and reverse sides of the endless portion, wherein a rounded projection is formed at a distal end of the protruding part.


4. (Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the fitting means comprises a plurality of fitting ribs, and among the plurality of fitting ribs, the fitting rib located closest to the entrance side of a fit-holding portion formed on the opening face of the fitted element or on the fitting element side are higher than those located on the interior side of the fit-holding portion.


6. (Amended) The sealing element according to claim 12, wherein the protruding part is set curved inwardly in the direction of squeezing so that the curved portion of the protruding part comes into contact with the contact surface of the fitted element or the contact surface of the fitting element.


9. (Amended) A hermetic container comprising:
a container body having an opening face;
a door element to be detachably fitted to the opening face of the container body, wherein the container body is of a front-open box type container body; and
an elastically deformably sealing element interposed between the opening face and the door element,

characterized in that a fit-holding portion is formed by notching either the inner periphery of the opening face of the container body or the outer periphery of the door element, and the sealing element comprises: an endless portion to be fitted into the fit-holding portion; a flexible protruding part projected from the endless portion, obliquely and outwardly with respect to the opening face of the container body, forming a substantially acute angle between itself and the contact surface of the door element or the contact surface of the opening face of the container body; and a fitting means having a notch or projection formed on at least one of the obverse and reverse sides of the endless portion and fitted in contact with the compartmentalized inner wall of the fit-holding portion.

12. (Newly Added) The sealing element according to claim 1,
wherein a vertical wall or projection having a vertical wall for positioning is formed on the inner side wall of the sealing element.
